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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Generous Father, help us to be more gracious receivers. We talk a lot about giving but often find it difficult to give to others what they need because we have been stingy receivers of Your grace and goodness. We cannot give what we do not have. Remind us that to love You is to allow You to love us profoundly. Then we will be able to love others unselfishly. The same is true for the gifts we need from You for our leadership. We need Your supernatural gift of discernment. Help us be willing to receive Your divine intelligence rather than obdurately insisting on making it on our own limited resources. Invade our thinking with insight and inspiration we could not produce on our own. You wait to bless us. We receive not because we do not ask. All through this day, make us aware of our great need for You and the great things You want to do through us. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Texas, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I wish to make the following announcement. Today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m. At 11 a.m. the Senate will resume consideration of S. 936, the Senate defense authorization bill. Currently, there are a number of amendments pending which

will require rollcall votes and also a number of filed amendments which are expected to be debated throughout the day. As previously announced, Senators can expect a series of rollcall votes on amendments to the bill later in the day as we make progress on this important legislation.

As always, Members will be notified accordingly when votes on amendments are ordered. As a reminder to all Senators, last night a cloture motion was filed on S. 936. Therefore, all first-degree amendments must be filed by 1 o'clock today. As previously stated, it is the intention of the majority leader to complete action on this bill by the end of the week. Senators should be prepared for busy sessions this week.

I thank all Members for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under a previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under a previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond 11 a.m. with Senators being permitted to speak up to 5 minutes.

INVESTIGATION BY GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the solemn importance of the investigative hearings that have just begun by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee under the leadership of the distinguished chairman, Senator THOMPSON, and the distinguished ranking member, Senator GLENN.

While it is unfortunate that some in Congress have attempted to portray this investigation as an effort by one

side to make political hay, I want to briefly discuss why these hearings are crucial for all Americans of whatever party or ideology.

Through the hard work and bipartisan effort of the Governmental Affairs Committee, there has been evidence uncovered and indications of much more evidence to come that our American political system was put up for sale and that an alarming number of foreign interests were ready and willing to buy. While there have been indications of a wide array of illegal activities in connection with the 1996 Presidential election, much of which the public is aware, Senator THOMPSON yesterday indicated that there may be much the American people do not yet know.

The chairman stated yesterday that his committee has evidence that points to a concerted effort by the Chinese Government to improperly or illegally influence American foreign policy toward that country and toward Taiwan. Mr. President, if this is, indeed, the case, then in my view the American people must know the truth. They have a right to know whether the U.S. Government and U.S. officials who were charged with the duty of serving the interests of the American people instead served their own special interests and the interests of others.

The U.S. Senate is attempting to find the truth through this investigation and I am hopeful and confident that it will do so.

Central to the investigation at this point is a name now well-known to the American people, John Huang. Mr. Huang has been a highly paid executive of a major foreign bank. He was appointed to be a high-level trade official at the Commerce Department with access to an array of classified documents. And finally, he was for a time a key fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee. While alone each of these positions is laudable, in part what this investigation seeks to determine is whether or not Mr. Huang

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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